



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2001 Senate Bill 61

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 2**

Memo published: March 11, 2002

Contact: Joyce L. Kiel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-3137)

CURRENT LAW

In general, a school board may not grant a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil has earned a prescribed number of credits in certain subjects in the high school grades or has been enrolled in an alternative education program and demonstrated certain levels of proficiency. [s. 118.33 (1) (a) and (d), Stats.] However, current law provides an exception by permitting a school board to award a high school diploma to a person who meets all of the following conditions:

1. Is at least 65 years old.
2. Attended high school in the school district.
3. Left high school before receiving a high school diploma to join the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of war as defined in s. 45.35 (5) (e), Stats.
4. Served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. Armed Forces.

In addition, a school board may award a high school diploma to a person who received a high school equivalency diploma after serving on active duty if the person meets all of these conditions.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 2 TO 2001 SENATE BILL 61

Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 to 2001 Senate Bill 61 amends current law in the following ways:

1. It provides that if a *deceased* person met the last three of the four conditions in current law as described above (that is, all of the conditions other than age) before dying, a school board may, upon request, award the person a high school diploma posthumously.

2. It would amend the second condition described above to require that the veteran attended high school in the school district *or* attended high school in the state and resides in the school district. Therefore, under the substitute amendment, the diploma could be awarded by *either* of the following:

- (a) The school board governing the school district in which the veteran attended high school.
- (b) The school board where the veteran currently resides as long as the veteran attended high school in the state.

Under current law and the substitute amendment, a school board is authorized to award a high school diploma to veterans under certain conditions but is not required to do so.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 61 is essentially a combination of: (1) Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to 2001 Assembly Bill 504 (item 2., above) (recommended by the Assembly Committee on Education on a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0); and (2) Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 61 (item 1., above) (recommended by the Assembly Committee on Education on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0). Assembly Substitute Amendment 2 to Senate Bill 61 was adopted by the Assembly with the bill concurred in, as amended, on a voice vote.

JLK;jal:rv;wu